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MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

At its fifth session, the Governing Council, having considered the report of the Environment Co-ordination Board on its sixth session, requested the Executive Director "to submit agreed memoranda of understanding on joint programming between the Programme and other agencies of the United Nations system to the Governing Council for information and comment". 1/

In accordance with this request, the following memoranda of understanding are attached:

1. Memorandum of understanding concerning co-operation between the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - signed in September 1989;

2. Memorandum of understanding on co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) signed on 8 November 1989;

3. Memorandum of understanding on co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) signed on 16 October 1990.

1/ Decision 82 (V), sect. III, para. 5.

Annex I

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR), THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (Hereinafter UNITAR), also acting on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme (Hereinafter UNEP), and the International Maritime Organization (Hereinafter IMO); and

RECOGNIZING that the "Exxon Valdez" incident in Prince William Sound, Alaska, and other subsequent oil spills in Narragansett Bay off Newport, Rhode Island, the Delaware River south of Philadelphia, and the Houston Ship Channel off Galveston, Texas, have received extended media coverage and focused public opinion on the environmental and economic damage caused by petroleum pollution;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that, in 1988, there were over 5,000 spills involving oil and other toxic substances along the coasts and in other navigable waters of the United States alone, of which 12 were classified as major because they exceeded 100,000 gallons;

CONSIDERING that several leading oil companies under the auspices of the American Petroleum Institute (Hereinafter API) have established the Petroleum Industry Response Organization (Hereinafter PIRO) to react in case of major oil spills threatening the continental seaboard of the United States;

REALIZING that a major oil spill could occur in any of the shipping lanes of the world involving tankers bringing crude oil or petroleum products to North America and elsewhere;

REALIZING FURTHER that there is a paucity of materials, equipment and trained expertise to respond to such incidents particularly in the developing world, as identified by the competent bodies of the United Nations system, viz, IMO, UNEP and UNITAR;

NOTING that seven major industrial nations at the fifteenth annual economic summit (Summit of the Arch), held in Paris on 14-16 July 1989, had expressed concern that national, regional and global capabilities to contain and alleviate the consequences of maritime oil spills be improved, and urged all countries to make better use of the latest monitoring and clean-up technologies;

NOTING FURTHER that the said summit asked all countries to adhere to and implement fully the international conventions for the prevention of oil pollution of the oceans, and also asked IMO to put forward proposals for further preventive action;

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

NOTING FINALLY the contents of the letter dated 7 July 1989 from Mr. Michel Doo Kingué, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNITAR, to Mr. Allen E. Murray, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, the MOBIL OIL CORPORATION, Chairman of the API Task Force on the establishment of a Petroleum Industry Response Organization (PIRO), which detailed the approach followed by the United Nations system in this regard, and underlined the need for a crash training programme for establishing management crisis teams in certain countries;

RECALLING that Decision 15/10 of the 15th session of the Governing Council of UNEP requested the Executive Director of UNEP to invite Governments, as well as UN bodies and specialized agencies and competent regional organizations to express their views regarding the need for, and the possible objectives, scope and functions of, a United Nations Centre for urgent environmental assistance (Cf. Annex 2 of the above-mentioned letter dated 7 July 1989);

NOW PROPOSES the following:

1. (a) A Steering Committee would be established comprising, inter alia, representatives of PIRO, API, etc., and the United Nations competent bodies referred to hereinabove;

(b) Functions and duties of the Steering Committee would be agreed by mutual consultation.

2. (a) Teams comprising initially five nationals of each country located along major sea lanes of the world, would be trained under the auspices of IMO, UNEP and UNITAR, in the management of major pollution incidents, in accordance with the programme outlined in attachment 1 hereto. Such programme would involve the training of some 500 individuals from about 100 different countries over a three to five-year period, these trainees becoming trainers in due course;

(b) Such training would, inter alia, take place within the existing regional oil combating centres, as detailed in attachment 2 hereto, as well as any other locale deemed appropriate;

(c) Training would be provided by experienced instructors, backed by specialists and consultants chosen from the oil industry, government agencies, research and development institutions, as well as by representatives of environmental and conservation organizations. Special emphasis would be placed on "hands-on" training.

3. New instructional material (e.g. training manuals, video cassettes, movies, computer software, etc.) would be developed as may be necessary to suid the requirements of the training programme, and priority would be given to anti-pollution techniques using indigenous resources, e.g. absorbents derived from wood bark, bagass, straw, etc., bearing in mind that different climatic and environmental conditions require different solutions.

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4. (a) A limited research activity into oil spill combating techniques would be initiated within the programme, in particular those relevant to extreme weather conditions, polar as well as tropical;

(b) Such research would include oil spills modelling and simulation techniques adapted to each participating country. It would involve liaising with and monitoring the work of existing institutions working in this field, possibly leading to the establishment of specialised of specialised data bases upon which the training component of the programme might draw;

(c) Studies would also be made on optimizing the use of existing equipment stockpiles on a world-wide basis, and on systematizing all logistical problems associated with the mobilization and demobilization of such equipment and related material.

5. (a) For budgetary purposes, it is estimated that the implementation of a programme as outlined hereinabove would call for an expenditure of approximately US$15 million over a three to five-year period. Lesser funding would require a review of the project programme;

(b) This project requires the establishment of a consolidated fund to be financed by various segments of the oil industry and by Governments. The establishment of such fund could be the responsibility and one of the first priorities of the Steering Committee mentioned under 1 (a) above.

C.P. Srivastava Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)	Michel Doo Kingué Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Attachment 1

OUTLINE OF TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR
SPILL PREPAREDNESS MANAGERS

The training programme to be implemented by the United Nations competent bodies would involve but not be limited to the following subjects. It would consist in lectures, video-cassettes, films, practice drills, etc. and would call on specialists from all segments of governments, the oil industry, learning institutions, environmental and conservation organizations.

1. Safety and Risk Management

(a) The crisis management team. Its composition, functions and areas of responsibility;

(b) Establishment of comprehensive national crisis communication plans;

(c) Alert system. Definition of scope and severity of spill;

(d) Accident reporting procedures;

(e) Response hierachy and chain of command;

(f) Mobilization and subsequent demobilization of response personnel, material and equipment;

(g) Media et al., relations. Cascade reporting and dissemination of news and information;

(h) Recording of events.

2. Legal Considerations

(a) Review of the international legal framework relating to the prevention and control of oil pollution;

(b) Review of national, regional and interregional co-operative arrangements and contingency plans;

(c) Industry-based oil spill liability and compensation schemes ("TOVALOP" and "CRISTAL");

(d) The International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund Organization, 1971, ("IOPC" Fund);

(e) Legal aspects of oil spills and like disasters;

(f) Liability framework and liability limits determination;

(g) Spills liability legislation(s);

(h) Establishment of local claims offices;

(i) Filing of claims and follow-up procedures;

(j) Facilitation agreements and other pertinent instruments with Governments' branches (Customs and Excise Department, Ports and Fisheries Department, Environmental Protection Agency, etc.).

3. Environmental Aspects

(a) Health and environmental aspects and procedures;

(b) Fate and effects of oil in the sea;

(c) Review and improvement of safeguards in place to protect the marine environment;

(d) Post spill protection of environment and wildlife;

(e) Revival of damaged ecology and restoration of fish and wildlife stocks and habitat;

(f) Potential impact of waste material disposal on the local environment.

4. Technical transfer of technology

(a) Oil spill containment methods;

(b) Oil spill containment equipments (Containment booms, deployment barges, etc.);

(c) Oil spill dispersion methods (Oil slick burning, use of chemical dispersants, skimmers, water spraying, etc.);

(d) Oil dispersion and recovery material and equipment (Skimmers, Inflatable neoprene containers, etc.);

(e) Apportionment of oil combating equipment to size and nature of oil spill;

(f) Periodical simulated spill drills and hands-on training expertise;

(g) Development of detailed waste management disposal plan(s);

(h) Preparation of national, regional and interregional data bases on marine environment and habitat (Long shore currents, tidal currents, winds velocity, temperature, rain fall, marine population, coastal fauna and flora, etc.);

(i) Development of oil spill combating techniques involving the utilization of indigenous ingredients.

Attachment 2

WORLDWIDE LIST OF REGIONAL RESPONSE CENTRES AND STAGING POSTS

The following is a preliminary list of response centres where the training of spill preparedness managers could tentatively take place.

A comprehensive list would be subsequently developed as the project is being implemented, together with a detailed tally of the material and equipment stockpiled in each centre.

1. United Nations sponsored centres

(a) Malta - Training and co-ordinating centre established in 1976 under the Barcelona Convention. Administered by IMO on UNEP's behalf. Operational;

(b) Bahrain - Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC) established in 1983 along the lines of the Malta centre. Operated by the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), in Kuwait. Operational;

(c) Davao - Located in the Philippines (but resources also available in Indonesia and Malaysia). Equipped by IMO/UNDP and based on Coast Guard facilities. Re-equipping scheduled for early 1990 pending funding;

(d) Djibouti - Being established with Norwegian funding. Equipment under procurement. Resources also available in Democratic Yemen and in Somalia.

Other centres are planned in Mombasa (Kenya), Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Central America and South America.

2. Oil Industry sponsored centres

(a) Southampton (UK). Established by British Petroleum.

(b) Singapore. Tiered Area Response Capability (TARC). Established by Oil Companies. Operational;

(c) New York, NY. To be established by PIRO;

(d) Norfolk, Va. To be established by PIRO;

(e) New Orleans, La. To be established by PIRO;

(f) Long Beach, CA. To be established by PIRO;

(g) Seattle, WA. To be established by PIRO;

3. Government Centres

(a) Brest, France. Operational;

(b) Marseilles, France. Operational;

Annex II

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)

A UNEP mission headed by Assistant Executive Director for Programme visited ESCWA-Baghdad 6-9 November 1989 to review with the Executive Secretary and his senior colleagues areas of co-operation between the two organizations for the biennium 1990-1991 and beyond. UNEP mission is a response to GC 15 decision 15/15 in which the Council welcomed the intents of the Executive Director of developing closer working relationships with the United Nations regional commissions.

Bearing in mind the co-operation which evolved between UNEP and ESCWA in previous years; the results of the meeting of the Executive Director of UNEP and the Executive Secretary of ESCWA in July 1989 in Geneva; and relevant contents of:

(a) The United Nations system-wide medium-term environment programme 1990-1995-SWMTEP (UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1);

(b) Programme Budget of UNEP 1990-1991 (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.1);

(c) Proposed Programme Budget for ESCWA 1990-1991 (A/44/6 - Section 14 - presently before United Nations General Assembly.

UNEP team and ESCWA officials reached the following conclusions:

1. ESCWA has taken necessary measures to strengthen its Environment Co-ordination Unit (ECU) under the Chief of Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division (NRSTD), and has since December 1988 redeployed to the Unit a professional P-4 post, one research assistant, and one General Service Post. ESCWA is presently screening candidates for the newly established post of Environment Regional Advisor who is expected to be on board January 1990.

These developments which were welcomed by UNEP, will enable ESCWA to enhance the cause of the environment in the region of West Asia, and manage, in collaboration with UNEP/ROWA, a joint UNEP/ESCWA Programme to that effect.

2. UNEP and ESCWA will concentrate their efforts in the following areas in the biennium 1990-1991:

(a) Desertification;

(b) Water with special emphasis on environmentally sound management of shared ground water resources;

(c) Environment and development planning (assist one country in ESCWA region in the systematic inclusion of environmental factors in the processes of development planning and implementation);

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(d) Environment and industry: industrial pollution, hazardous waste management, energy conservation policies and planning;

(e) Climate change and ozone layer depletion;

(f) Environment and Development Conference 1992; (in light of decision of the General Assembly on this matter);

(g) Public Awareness (Outreach Programme Women, Youth).

3. After reviewing ESCWA proposals by UNEP Team and ESCWA Programme Managers concerned, it was agreed to develop draft project documents for UNEP consideration on above areas, the programming capabilities of ESCWA need to be enhanced. To this end, ESCWA will request UNEP to provide six/man/months of consultancy in early 1990.

4. UNEP Team and ESCWA shared the view that, with ESCWA providing core staff for ECU as part of its establishment, the stage is set for UNEP to extend to ESCWA Programme Support (after ceasing its institutional support in 1987), and for this purpose UNEP could use funds from its own available resources as well as other sources as they become available. In this connection, ESCWA made special reference to UNEP Programme 13: Technical and Regional Co-operation in UNEP Programme Budget document for 1990-1991.

5. It was agreed that the Senior staff of ESCWA and UNEP/ROWA would continue to strengthen their working relationships to enhance further the co-operation between the two organizations. ESCWA and UNEP/ROWA should also co-operate in supporting concerted efforts with other regional organizations related to the environment, particularly the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE).

6. ESCWA agreed to continue to take active part in the work of the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters (DOEM), particularly in the process of UNEP Programme Budget preparation in the biennia to come as well as SWMTEP preparations.

7. ESCWA management will extend support to ECU to fulfil its objective of assisting, as appropriate, all substantive units of ESCWA, in incorporating the environmental dimension in their respective programmes and to be kept informed about and involved in environmental developments of interest to them.

8. It was also agreed by UNEP Team and ESCWA that the two organizations should take part in the sessions of their respective governing bodies and other meetings of relevance to their joint endeavours.

Sveneld Evteev Assistant Executive Director UNEP 8/11/89	Tayseer Abdel Jaber Executive Secretary ESCWA 8/11/1989

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Annex III

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP) AND UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the modalities of co-operation between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with a view to forging strong, effective and mutually beneficial relationship between ESCAP and UNEP.

2. This MOU is concluded taking into account the following:

- Agreement governing the establishment of UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), January 1976;
- Governing Council decision 15/15 welcoming closer working relationship between UNEP and the United Nations Regional Commissions;
- ESCAP Resolution 224 (XXXVIII);
- The Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (10-16 October 1990), convened by ESCAP to formulate a regional strategy towards environmentally sound and sustainable development. The Conference is convened by ESCAP, inter alia, in co-operation with UNEP;
- The Medium-Term Plan of ESCAP 1992-1997 (E/ESCAP/731);
- The United Nations System Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme, 1990-1995 (UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1);
- The Programme Budget of UNEP 1990-1991 (UNEP/GC.15/9/Add.1).

3. ESCAP and UNEP have developed a number of activities to promote environmentally sustainable development in the region over the past decade or so. These activities have proved to be useful in raising the concern for environment and sustainable development to the highest levels in national policy making.

4. ESCAP and UNEP recognize the need to continue to harmonize their efforts in promoting the attainment by member states of the region, a sustained economic and social development based on rational use of resources and the protection of the human environment for present and future generations.

5. Accordingly, ESCAP and UNEP agree to co-operate with each other in the development of activities in the following priority areas:

- Protection and management of land resources by combating desertification, land degradation and deforestation;

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- Conservation of biological diversity;

- Protection of the oceans and coastal areas;

- Environmentally sound management and protection of fresh water resources;

- Rational use and protection of marine living resources;

- Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes;

- Protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change; and

- Promotion and transfer of clean technologies.

6. ESCAP and UNEP also agree:

- To intensify consultation as they prepare their medium-term plans and their biennial work programmes, and budgets;

- To expand the exchange of information on environmental aspects of their programmes and activities; and

- To initiate immediately the elaboration and implementation of joint projects in the following areas based inter alia, on the financial support of the fund of UNEP;

  (a) Assessment and training in desertification control and soil degradation;

  (b) Promotion of the integration of environmental consideration into development planning with special reference to application of environmental impact, social cost-benefit analysis, integrated physical planning, valuation of natural resources and environmental damage;

  (c) Monitoring of illegal transboundary movement of toxic and dangerous products and wastes (General Assembly resolution 44/226); and

  (d) Protection of coastal areas in South Asian Seas (SAS) as part of UNEP/ESCAP contributions to the eventual development of an SAS action plan.

7. The project proposals identified in (6) above will be fully developed by both secretariats in the appropriate format for consideration by UNEP. Other project proposals will be developed in the course of the subsequent biennia of the current SWMTEP, ending 1995.

8. Consideration should be given by UNEP and ESCAP to jointly organize regional meetings, similar to DOEM for effective consideration of environmental activities at the regional level.

9. This MOU will enter into force upon signature of the Executive Director of UNEP and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

Mostafa K. Tolba
Executive Director
on behalf of the
United Nations
Environment Programme

16/10/1990

S.A.M.S. Kibria
Executive Secretary
On behalf of the Economic
and Social Commission for
Asia and the Pacific

16/10/90